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## COMMUNISTS TIGHTEN GRAIN LEVY PROGRAM

KWALGIUNG OFFICIALS ISSUE GRAIN-REQUISITIONING GUIDE -- Kung-shang Jih-pao, 12 Jan 50

On 11 January, the South China Communist authorities and the Kwangtung People's government published in Communist papers a "Supplementary Guide for Requisitioning Public Grain." The guide states that necessary changes can be made in the requisitioning regulations according to local conditions, but it emphasizes that all cadres must share in the work and push the program. The guide includes the following regulations.

- 1. If ancestral and community fields are in the hands of unscrupulous squires and rented out, they shall oe taxed at the same rate as landlords' holdings. If, however, they are really rented out to peasants and the proceeds devoted to relief or charity, the maximum rate shall not exceed 25 percent of the actual yield.
- If monastery lands are cultivated by monks and runs, the tax burden shall be the same as that for middle-class peasants. That which is rented out or worked by a long-term employee of the monastery, with the monks sharing in the labor, shall be taxed at the rate of rich peasants. And if the land is rented out in its entirety, the tax shall be from 40 to 45 percent.
- 3. Those peasants who grow other crops beside grain shall have their annual produce reduced to grain for tax purposes; and
- 4. Land which produces three crops of grain a year shall be taxed for two crof 3 only.

The guide also states that in order to extend the circulation of people's currency into rural areas it is determined that 5 to 10 percent of the requisitioning may be paid in cash at the rate announced by the hsien government. Furthermore, the guide says that grain and fodder borrowed by the Communist armies may be credited on the requisitioning upon presentation of the proper receipts.

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COMMUNISTS TAKE MORE GRAIN THAN KMT -- Kung-shang Jih-pao, 12 Jan 50

The fertile and prosperous delta south of Kuang-chou has fallen upon evil times since the Communist forces moved in, according to a farmer who gave the following illustration. The old rule was that a tenant paid the landlord four tenths of the early crop and six tenths of the late crop. The amount of payment was to be determined by the quality of land. Usually, payments ranged from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 piculs per year. But after the Red troops came, all land, irrespective of quality, was reckoned at 3 piculs per mou per year for the second payment. Besides, 180 catties had to be paid to the Leudlord on all land. The landlord then must give two thirds of what he received to support the "front-line troops." Thus, he loses two thirds of his income from rent. Similarly, the tenant also loses. Formerly, he paid less on poor land but now it is all graded at 3 piculs rental.

The same farmer further stated that the landlord or tenant is restricted in another respect. Each family may keep only 5 piculs of grain in reserve, in addition to a ration of 4 piculs for each person. Any amount beyond that must be registered with the government, or peasants' association, or "agency for supporting the front." The reserve must not be touched unless an emergency necessitating the selling of grain arises. All such transactions must be reported to the proper authorities.

As for the collection of grain for the 1950 spring harvest, nothing is known as yet; but questionnaires have been distributed. Some say that this survey by the Communists is in preparation for a redistribution of land. But this cannot be affirmed, because the Communists themselves have made no announcement. Many folks are delaying filling the questionnaire until the purpose of the survey is known more clearly.

CALLS CRAIN LEVYS IN MONTHEAST EFFICIENT -- Wen-hui Fao, 13 Jan 50

Grain levying has been speeded up through the entire Northeast, and by late December more than half the quotas had been collected. Sungkiang and Jehol provinces brought in their full amount by the middle of December. Other provinces had delivered 60-70 percent by the end of December. The quality of grain was also up to standard. Last year, collections were according to the annual quota; but this year, due to widespread disasters, the maintenance of quality and a fair apportionment in which neither peasants nor government suffered too much, became quite a problem for the officials.

Therefore, for this year's levy, a careful survey of damage, reclassification of land, and investigation of black land [arable land that is not reported] was made. In Liaohsi Province, last August, the teams that were out in the field pushing flood control, production, and relief also made a study of land output. Kirin Province also made a new estimate of land output, in which many peasants tock part. Liaotung Province, during the autumn levy, discovered 66,000 mou of unreported land. In Chin-hsi Esien of Liaohsi Province, of their own accord peasants reported more than 5,000 mou of black land.

In most cases the peasants have profited. For instance, in Jehol the requisition of public grain has been lighter than last year, the highest being not more than 20 percent, and in Pei-p'iao and Chao-yang between 10 and 20 percent. In Heilungkiang a call was made for the best quality of grain, followed by an urgent directive to maintain this quality. Orders were issued to reward early delivery. This was followed by visits of officials and cadremen to the countryside. In early December, Hai-lun Heien had brought in 23 million catties of high-grade grain, which was more than 27 percent of its total quota. More than 20,000 tons of high-grade grain are collected daily throughout the province of Heilungkiang.

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In mid-December, the time of greatest pressure, an average of 30,000 carts were delivering grain daily (the maximum being 70,000) in the Northeast. More than 300,000 horses were employed and from 100,000 to 150,000 persons.

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